

DEFINING MOMENTS IN BRAIN INJURY

September 22, 2026 | DoubleTree by Hilton, Portland, Maine



Join us for this premier conference focused on brain injury treatment, recovery, research, and resources in Maine

Highlights Include:

- Keynote Address on *Young Brains, Real Strokes: Navigating Cerebrovascular Injury Across the Lifespan* by Elizabeth Rosen, MD, Director, TIA-CARE Program, Tufts Medical Center
- Beverley Bryant Memorial Lecture on *Forward through the Fog: Turning Challenges into Strength* by Marc Landry
- 15 breakout sessions for professionals, individuals living with brain injury, and family caregivers
- Earn up to 6 CE credits
- Exhibits from leading organizations serving the brain injury community in Maine

Who Should Attend:

Including, but not limited to: individuals living with brain injury, family caregivers, Certified Brain Injury Specialists, social workers, case managers, Certified Rehabilitation Counselors, recreational therapists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech language pathologists, mental health clinicians, psychologists, nurses, physicians, pediatricians, physician assistants, school nurses, nurse practitioners, and students.

REGISTRATION FEES

Professionals: \$199 early/\$249 regular
Survivors/family/students: \$60 early/\$75 regular

Note: Early rates available until August 21

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Questions? Contact
conferences@biausa.org

HOTEL INFORMATION



**DoubleTree by Hilton
363 Maine Mall Road, Portland, Maine**

We have a special group room rate of \$189 (single or double occupancy). To make your reservation, call Hotel Reservations at 855-610-8733 and mention you are part of BIAA to get the special rate. The room block expires at 5:00 pm ET on August 31, 2026. After that date, rooms may not be available, so please register early!

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We have scholarships available for brain injury survivors and family members to attend the conference for \$20. If you are interested, please [click here](#) to apply. We have a limited number of scholarships available, so please apply early!

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

Certified Brain Injury Specialists (CBIS/CBIST)

The Academy of Certified Brain Injury Specialists will recognize up to five hours of continuing education credit for attendance at the full conference.

We will apply for credits from the following organizations:

- American Occupational Therapy Association
- Commission for Case Manager Certification
- Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification
- Maine Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
- Maine State Board of Examiners of Psychologists

Certificate of Attendance

All attendees are eligible to receive a certificate of attendance.

For more information

For any questions regarding CE credits, contact conferences@biausa.org.

AGENDA

7:30-8:30 a.m.	Registration and Morning Refreshments			
8:30-9:35 a.m.	<p align="center">Welcome & Keynote Address Young Brains, Real Strokes: Navigating Cerebrovascular Injury Across the Lifespan Elizabeth Rosen, MD, Director, TIA-CARE Program at Tufts Medical Center</p>			
9:35-9:45 a.m.	<p align="center">Lewis and Clara Lamont Brain Injury Advocacy Award Presentation</p>			
Networking Break				
	Brain Injury Support Track	Clinical Track	Clinical Track	
10:00-11:00 a.m.	<p>Assistive Technology for People Living with Brain Injury Leilani Carlson, Maine CITE</p>	<p>FERN: Facilitating Early Referral to Neuroresources for Cardiac Arrest Survivors Richard Riker, MD, FCCM, Jennier Cote, OTR/L and Sara Penrod, MS, CCC-SLP, BCS-S, MaineHealth</p>	<p>Overview of Maine DHHS Services with Q&A</p>	
Networking Break				
11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	<p align="center">Beverley Bryant Memorial Lecture: Forward through the Fog: Turning Challenges into Strength Marc Landry</p>			
Lunch				
	Behaviorial Track	Brain Injury Support Track	Clinical Track 1	Clinical Track 2
1:00-2:00 p.m.	<p>Reframing Brain Injury Symptoms through a Self Compassion Lens Tiffany Robinson, MA, LCPC, CCATP</p>	<p>Regulating the Nervous System with the Sensory Systems Ida O'Donnell, LCSW, Art of Awareness</p>	<p>Bridging Cognition and Function: OT Evaluation and Intervention Strategies in Brain Injury Rehabilitation Melanie Kendall, OTR/L, CHT, CSRS, Camden Tillinghast, OTR/L, Maine Strong Balance Center</p>	<p>Patient Reported Outcome Measures for Service Providers Jessica Riccardi, PhD, CCC-SLP, University of Maine</p>
Networking Break				
2:15-3:15 p.m.	<p>A Survivor's Voice: The Importance of Early Mental Health Intervention after Pediatric Brain Injury Calvin Jasper and Chelsea Zarcone, LICSW, CBIS, Roots of Us Consulting</p>	<p>Getting Back to Business: Returning to Work Post Injury Blythe Edwards, LCPC, Spurwink</p>	<p>A Home and Community Approach to Concussion Management Lindsay Pieper, PT, DPT, Miranda Prescott, BSPY, MSOTR/L, Rebecca Baker, MS, CCC-SLP, Rehab Without Walls</p>	<p>Practical AI for Brain Injury Professionals: Safe, Useful, and Responsible Ways to Get Started Ahmad Khan, AI Impact Maine LLC</p>
Networking Break and Prize Drawings				
3:30-4:30 p.m.	<p>The Brain in Transition: Grieving Brain Injury & Supporting Persons Living with Brain Injury Lisa Kelly, Spacious Corner Coaching, LLC</p>	<p>Navigating Health Insurance Coverage Rachel Collamore and Helen Roy, Consumers for Affordable Health Care</p>	<p>Assistive Technology for Independence after a Brain Injury Chris Delenick OT/L, OTD, University of New England</p>	<p>Navigating the Real-Life Cognitive Load of Recovery Taryn Barlow, CCC-SLP, CBIS, CIHC, The Well Brain Cognitive Health Coaching</p>

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

8:30-8:35 AM - WELCOME

8:35-9:35 AM - OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Young Brains, Real Strokes: Navigating Cerebrovascular Injury Across the Lifespan

Elizabeth C. Rosen, M.D., Director, TIA-CARE Program at Tufts Medical Center

Stroke is often perceived as a disease of older adults, yet it remains a significant and underrecognized cause of brain injury in pediatric and young adult populations. This session will explore the unique epidemiology, etiologies, and clinical presentations of stroke across younger age groups, highlighting key differences from adult stroke. We will discuss diagnostic challenges, acute management considerations, and the evolving landscape of evidence-based care, including recent guideline updates and emerging systems of care. Special attention will be given to long-term outcomes, rehabilitation, and the critical transition from pediatric to adult neurology care. Through a clinically grounded and patient-centered lens, this session aims to equip providers, advocates, and caregivers with a deeper understanding of stroke as a lifelong condition beginning in early life.

Learning Objectives:

- Discuss the unique risk factors, etiologies, and clinical presentations of stroke in pediatric and young adult populations
- Describe key differences in diagnostic evaluation and acute management of stroke across age groups, including current evidence and guideline considerations
- Identify challenges in long-term care, including rehabilitation needs and transition from pediatric to adult-focused healthcare systems

9:35-9:45 AM - LEWIS AND CLARA LAMONT BRAIN INJURY ADVOCACY AWARD PRESENTATION

9:45-10:00 AM - NETWORKING BREAK

10:00-11:00 AM - CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Assistive Technology for People Living with Brain Injury

Leilani Carlson, Director of Maine CITE

Assistive Technology (AT) is any tool, device, or service used to maintain or improve the functional capabilities of people with disabilities. For those living with a brain injury, AT offers a range of solutions—from simple low-tech aids to advanced high-tech tools—designed to support safety, productivity, and daily independence. In this session, we will explore practical applications of AT with a specific focus on: Cognition (memory, organization, and task management), Vision (visual tracking, reading, and environmental access), and Mobility (physical navigation and safety).

Learning Objectives:

- Identify Local Resources: Navigate Maine CITE's statewide programs and support services
- Categorize AT Solutions: identify which types of technology best support specific functional needs in cognition, vision, and mobility
- Access the Lending Library: Utilize AT4Maine.org to borrow equipment for short-term use, professional development, or personal trial before making a purchase

FERN: Facilitating Early Referral to Neuroresources for Cardiac Arrest Survivors

Richard Riker, MD, FCCM, Jennier Cote, OTR/L, Sara Penrod, MS, CCC-SLP, MaineHealth

This presentation will highlight the development and implementation of Facilitating Early Referral to Neuroresources (FERN) at MaineHealth Maine Medical Center Portland, in collaboration with the Brain Injury Association of America in Maine and New Hampshire. FERN provides early, multidisciplinary assessment and referral for cardiac arrest survivors, including psychiatry, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, and connection to community brain injury resources. Attendees will learn how this program addresses gaps in post-cardiac arrest care, aligns with emerging national guidelines, and supports advocacy efforts to improve services and funding for individuals with acquired brain injury.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

10:00-11:00 AM - CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONTINUED

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the prevalence and spectrum of physical, cognitive, functional, and psychosocial impairments experienced by cardiac arrest survivors and their caregivers following hospital discharge
- Identify gaps in traditional post-cardiac arrest care and explain why structured, multidisciplinary rehabilitation assessment and referral – beyond the acute hospitalization – is critical for optimizing neurological function and health-related quality of life
- Discuss the key components and early outcomes of the FERN program and apply this model to improve referral pathways, community-based support, and advocacy for cardiac arrest survivors in their own practice settings

Overview of MAINE DHHS Services with Q&A

Session details coming soon.

11:00-11:15 AM - NETWORKING BREAK

11:15 AM - 12:00 PM - BEVERLEY BRYANT MEMORIAL LECTURE

Forward Through the Fog: Turning Challenges into Strength

Marc Landry

In this Beverley Bryant Memorial Lecture, Marc Landry will share how he turned the challenges of living with brain injury into strength. He will describe how he struggled for years with failing health that made it impossible to work. After numerous visits to doctors and specialists, he was finally diagnosed with acquired brain injury. In the midst of these struggles, he one day made the decision not to let his illness define him and control the limits of his life. He learned to keep moving forward with baby steps and turned to writing as an outlet. Learn how this led to him becoming a successful children's book author in Maine.

Learning Objectives:

- Explain the importance of persistence in brain injury recovery
- Discuss why it's beneficial not to let your struggles define you
- Discuss the value of keeping a positive, hopeful outlook in the midst of struggles

12:00-1:00 PM - LUNCH

1:00-2:00 PM - CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Reframing Brain Injury Symptoms through a Self-Compassion Lens

Tiffany Robinson, MA, LCPC, CCATP

This session explains how brain injury can affect emotions, thinking skills, and daily energy levels. It also helps people understand that things like being tired, hungry, overwhelmed, or lonely can make emotions harder to manage—not just the brain injury itself. Participants will learn simple ways to tell the difference, reduce shame and self-criticism, and use self-compassion tools to support emotional balance and daily stability.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe at least three ways brain injury impacts emotional regulation, executive functioning, and daily capacity
- Identify at least four non-pathological human factors (e.g., sleep deprivation, hunger, loneliness, sensory overload) that can exacerbate emotional dysregulation following brain injury
- Explain how shame and self-criticism affect autonomic nervous system activation and emotional expression in individuals with brain injury

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

1:00-2:00 PM - CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONTINUED

Regulating the Nervous System with the Sensory Systems

Ida O'Donnell, LCSW, Art of Awareness

This session will guide participants through the connection between sensory regulation and emotional resilience. In an experiential setting, participants will explore all eight sensory systems—visual, auditory, tactile, olfactory, gustatory, proprioceptive, vestibular, and interoceptive—and learn how these systems can be either oversensitive or under sensitive following brain injury. Through guided activities, participants will identify their own sensory profiles and discover practical ways to restore nervous system balance. The session will also delve into the role of the vagus nerve in fostering a sense of safety and calm. Participants will learn simple vagus nerve exercises to help modulate their emotional responses and improve their capacity to engage in other therapeutic modalities.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify all eight sensory systems and describe their role in nervous system regulation
- Describe at least three practical sensory-based techniques to calm or stimulate their nervous system and explain when to use each
- Discuss how sensory and autonomic regulation contribute to emotional resilience and day-to-day coping

Bridging Cognition and Function: OT Evaluation and Intervention Strategies in Brain Injury Rehabilitation

Camden Tillinghast, MSOT, OTR/L and Melanie Kendall, OTR/L, CHT, CSRS, Maine Strong Balance Center

Clinicians from the Maine Strong Balance Centers will share a framework for addressing cognition in individuals with brain injury in rehabilitative settings, emphasizing patient-centered care and clinical utility. This presentation will address how occupational therapists synthesize cognitive assessment findings into meaningful, individualized goals and intervention plans that support return to daily activities, work, and community roles.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe common cognitive impairments following brain injury and their impact on occupational performance
- Describe the role of occupational therapy in evaluating and supporting cognitive function in daily life
- List practical strategies and tools that can help support memory, organization, and attention in real-world settings.
- Discuss the benefits of compensatory strategies for cognition for survivors of brain injury

Patient Recorded Outcome Measures for Service Providers

Jessica Riccardi, PhD, CCC-SLP, University of Maine

Session description coming soon.

2:00-2:15 PM - NETWORKING BREAK

2:15-3:15 PM - CONCURRENT SESSIONS

A Survivor's Voice: The Importance of Early Mental Health Intervention after Pediatric Brain Injury

Chelsea Zarcone, LICSW, CBIS, Roots of Us Consulting, PLLC, and Calvin Jasper

This presentation highlights the first-person perspective of a brain injury survivor, focusing on his experiences after sustaining a severe traumatic brain injury at age 14. The session will connect common difficulties for those following a brain injury, including evidence that adolescents who experience brain injury between ages 15-18 are at increased risk for involvement in the juvenile justice system. The workshop features both the survivor and his former social worker, who will reflect on their work together through a trauma-informed and neuro-affirming lens. Emphasis will be placed on the clinical importance of therapeutic rapport and person-centered approaches to care, illustrating how these practices can shape engagement, recovery, and long-term outcomes for youth following brain injury. The presentation will also address the intersection of mental health disorders and brain injury, with particular attention to the risk of diagnostic overshadowing—where cognitive and behavioral symptoms are misattributed either solely to a mental health disorder, or the brain injury itself.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

2:15-3:15 PM - CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONTINUED

Learning Objectives:

- Analyze the intersection between pediatric brain injury and mental health disorders, including how neurological injury can influence psychiatric presentation, diagnostic clarity, and the development of trust within the clinical relationship
- Interpret trends linking pediatric brain injury to juvenile justice involvement, and apply this knowledge to inform trauma-informed clinical practice
- Review and discuss the importance of behavioral health professionals having both a trauma and neurologic-informed approach to care

Getting Back to Business: Returning to Work Post Injury

Blythe Edwards, LCPC, Spurwink

Returning to work after a brain injury can be incredibly challenging. Survivors often need resources and support to successfully resume working, but there's no clear roadmap. In this session, we will explore specific challenges in returning to work, discuss strategies for how to self-advocate in the workplace, and learn ways to access resources/supports for success.

Learning Objectives:

- Name three barriers and challenges in returning to the workplace after TBI
- Describe two strategies for self-advocating in the workplace
- Identify three accommodations brain injury survivors can ask for in the workplace

A Home and Community Approach to Concussion Management

Lindsay Pieper, PT, DPT, Miranda Prescott, BSPY, MSOTR/L, and Rebecca Baker, MS, CCC-SLP, Rehab Without Walls

A mild traumatic brain injury, also referred to as a concussion, requires a specialized approach for assessment and intervention. A comprehensive, interdisciplinary, person-centered approach is necessary to address all domains, as the residual symptoms can significantly impact daily functions. Many individuals who have experienced a concussion often are overcome with persistent symptoms that can remain for days, weeks, months, or even years, which has the potential for long-term cognitive, physical, and emotional impairments. Early diagnosis and intervention are paramount in order to maximize optimal functional return and minimize long-term complications.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify clinical profiles and the associated signs/symptoms, the relevance to concussion rehabilitation, including evaluation and management, and potential impact on function
- Identify at least two assessment tools and two treatment interventions per discipline that may be utilized with this patient population
- Identify other providers who may be involved in the rehabilitation process following a concussion

Practical AI for Brain Injury Professionals: Safe, Useful, and Responsible Ways to Get Started

Ahmad Khan, AI Impact Maine LLC

This session will introduce brain injury professionals to practical and responsible ways AI tools can support everyday workplace tasks while maintaining appropriate caution around privacy, accuracy, ethics, and human review. The session will use plain language and realistic professional examples to explain what AI tools can and cannot do, where they may help with drafting, communication, planning, documentation support, and workflow efficiency, and where AI should not be used as a substitute for clinical judgment, professional guidance, or organizational policy.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe what AI tools can and cannot do in plain language and identify appropriate professional use cases
- Recognize key risks related to privacy, accuracy, bias, overreliance, and the need for human review
- Apply basic prompting and review practices to improve AI-assisted drafting, communication, planning, and workflow support

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

3:15-3:30 PM - NETWORKING BREAK

3:30-4:30 PM - CONCURRENT SESSIONS

The Brain in Transition: Grieving Brain Injury and Supporting Persons Living with Brain Injury

Lisa Kelly, Spacious Corner Coaching, LLC

Grief isn't just emotional, it's neurological. The brain is trying to learn that someone or something cherished or looked forward to is gone or changed. The brain builds deep "maps" and when something changes, it doesn't instantly update that map. Part of the brain still expects what was mapped out. That mismatch creates the painful experience of grief. So how can a better understanding result in better support?

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the deep grief of people connected to those who experienced a TBI
- Explain the role of prediction and searching as they relate to the grief process
- Identify ways to support the grieving aspect of TBI

Navigating Health Insurance Coverage

Rachel Collamore and Helen Roy, Consumers for Affordable Health Care

This session will describe various health coverage options (excluding Medicare), such as MaineCare, Marketplace, and coverage offered through an employer. Topics include:

- Safety net programs such as hospital free care, sliding scale, dental clinics, and prescription assistance
- Basic eligibility for various programs
- Transitioning from one coverage type to another
- How to enroll in and/or maintain coverage, understanding how coverage works, and how to use coverage while maximizing benefits

Learning Objectives:

- Identify how and when to enroll in the coverage you are eligible for, selecting plans that meet healthcare needs and costs, and how to avoid gaps in coverage
- Discuss common health coverage terms, how networks and provider enrollment can impact the care you need, and what you can do to help ensure your coverage will help pay for the care you need
- Describe how Consumers for Affordable Health Care can support Mainers with brain injuries and their caregivers as they navigate the health insurance coverage landscape

Assistive Technology for Independence after a Brain Injury

Chris Delenick, OT/L, OTD, University of New England

This presentation will highlight assistive technology devices/tools that can enhance independence, engagement, safety, and participation following a brain injury. Assessment strategies and funding options will also be discussed through the use of case-based learning activities.

Learning Objectives:

- List three assistive technology tools that would be beneficial for someone following a brain injury
- Describe a person and environment-focused approach to assistive technology assessment and application following brain injury
- Identify funding sources for obtaining assistive technology for brain injury

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

3:30-4:30 PM - CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONTINUED

Navigating the Real-Life Cognitive Load of Recovery

Taryn Barlow, CCC-SLP, CBIS, CIHC, The Well Brain Cognitive Health Coaching

Cognitive load, the mental effort needed to manage tasks, emotions, decisions, and responsibilities, can become profoundly heavy after a brain injury. What once felt automatic may now feel exhausting, overwhelming, or disorganized. This isn't about motivation or strength; it's about a brain doing its best while under neurological strain. For those living with brain injury, this invisible weight can impact everything from focus to independence. For providers, acknowledging this load is essential to deliver truly effective, person-centered care. It's not just about recovery, it's about rebuilding function, confidence, and quality of life by understanding the unseen demands placed on the brain each day. Healing happens when we support both the brain and the burden.

Learning Objectives:

- Discuss how cognitive fatigue impacts focus, independence, and medical appointments
- Identify cognitive overload and adapt care for more effective person-centered care
- Describe one real clinical setting cognitive challenge from bottom to top using the cognitive ladder

SPEAKERS

Rebecca Baker, MS, CCC-SLP, is a speech-language pathologist who graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 2013 with a master's degree in communication sciences and disorders. She has worked in outpatient, inpatient, skilled nursing, acute, and subacute settings, and currently specializes in neurorehabilitation and dysphagia management through flexible endoscopic evaluation of swallow. Rebecca joined Rehab Without Walls Home and Community program in 2022 as a per diem employee and quickly transitioned to a full-time staff therapist and clinical coordinator position. In November 2024 she transitioned to the role of Director of Clinical Management for the New Hampshire Rehab Without Walls Home and Community program and was promoted to Executive Director of the program in July 2025.

Taryn Barlow, CCC-SLP, CBIS, CIHC, is a pioneer in Cognitive Health Coaching and the founder of The Well Brain™, a virtual practice that bridges the gap between healthcare and holistic neuro recovery. With expertise as a neuro Speech-Language Pathologist along with certifications and credentials as a Certified International Health Coach, Certified Brain Injury Specialist, and Amen University Elite Brain Health Clinician, Taryn integrates clinical knowledge with whole-life wellness to support tangible, everyday outcomes like realistic cognitive strategies, advocacy, and confidence in daily tasks. Taryn's approach is rooted in neuroscience and tailored to those recovering from brain injury, helping clients move from cognitive chaos to cognitive confidence.

Leilani (Lani) Carlson is the director of Maine CITE, the state's assistive technology program. Since joining the organization in July 2022 and transitioning to Director in July 2025, she has focused on expanding access to resources that help Mainers with disabilities lead more independent lives. Before joining Maine CITE, Lani spent a decade as the Maine AgrAbility Project Coordinator, where she supported agricultural workers with chronic illnesses and disabilities through direct assistance and education. Her professional background also includes over 15 years in the environmental engineering and consulting industry. This diverse experience informs her well-rounded approach to accessibility, digital inclusion, and community support across Maine.

SPEAKERS

Rachel Collamore is responsible for the oversight and management of CAHC's Consumer Assistance Program (CAP), which provides enrollment assistance for MaineCare and ACA Marketplace plans, help accessing the benefits of coverage, including helping consumers navigate the appeals process when coverage has been denied. The CAP also provides outreach and education to consumers and enrollment professionals statewide. An unabashed data hound, Rachel ensures the full spectrum of CAHC's activities is captured for reporting purposes, public information, and fundraising. She worked at a social services agency managing a Head Start program and in government before joining CAHC. Rachel holds a Master's in Public Policy, Planning, and Management from the University of Southern Maine.

Jennifer Cote, OTR/L, is an experienced occupational therapist with over 30 years of practice in acute care, bringing deep expertise in ICU-level care and the rehabilitation of individuals with complex neurological conditions. Her clinical work has focused on interdisciplinary care for critically ill patients, including those with acquired brain injury and severe functional impairments. Jennifer is a seasoned presenter who has shared her expertise at regional and institutional forums on topics such as Occupational Therapy's role in end-of-life decision making, the integrated contributions of OT/PT/SLP in critical care, and the comprehensive management of patients with acquired brain injury in the ICU.

Chris Delenick, OT/L, OTD, is an occupational therapist with over 25 years in practice and experience in settings including level I trauma centers, acute rehabilitation facilities, skilled nursing facilities, outpatient/community-based services, a Center for Independent Living, and a maximum security prison. Chris is passionate about accessibility/advocacy, the role of occupational therapy services for consumers with mild brain injury, and how assistive technology - whether customized or commercially available - can enhance the meaningful engagement of people with disabilities living in the community. Chris is a full-time faculty member in the Occupational Studies Department and an adjunct faculty member in the Occupational Therapy Department at UNE, in addition to maintaining a private OT practice in Southern/Central Maine.

Blythe Edwards, LCPC, is the Director of Central and Coastal Outpatient & Community Services for Spurwink. She has worked in community, residential, and hospital settings in behavioral health for over 20 years. In her current role, she oversees counseling, case management, and shared living programs. She is also a TBI survivor; four years ago, she sustained a head injury at work. She is hopeful that sharing her own experiences with TBI will empower other survivors on their journeys.

Calvin Jasper is a New Hampshire native who enjoys spending his free time with his dog, Duke, hiking, and exploring trails. He also enjoys working out, running, discovering new music, and drawing. Calvin is looking forward to continuing his education and beginning his advocacy journey through sharing his story and presenting at conferences.

Lisa Kelly is a certified life and health coach who created a holistic approach to processing grief in the workplace called The P.E.A.R.L.S Method. She helps grieving employees return to work and achieve their top performance. She also helps employers deal with grief and loss in the workplace efficiently and compassionately.

Melanie Kendall, OTR/L, CHT, CSRS, is an Occupational Therapist with 26 years of experience working with individuals with neurological impairments. She is a graduate of the University of New England and has extensive experience in acute care, outpatient rehabilitation, hand therapy, and a brain injury rehabilitation center. Melanie currently works at the Maine Strong Balance Center in Westbrook, Maine and is a Certified Stroke Rehabilitation Specialist and a Certified Hand Therapist.

SPEAKERS

Ahmad Khan is the founder of AI Impact Maine LLC, a Maine-based organization focused on practical AI training, responsible AI adoption, and AI literacy for non-technical professionals and organizations. He has a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of Southern Maine, Class of 2017, and professional experience in accounting, IT systems, ERP/Oracle systems, business development, operations, and AI-supported workflow improvement. His training approach emphasizes plain-language instruction, realistic workplace examples, privacy awareness, responsible use, and human review.

Marc Landry is a Lyme/persistent concussion symptom survivor. After being forced by illness to retire from a long engineering career, he has now pursued his passion of writing children's books, writing as ML Bruin. He has chosen not to let his illness define him, but to inspire and motivate others through his writing and communication.

Ida Odonnell, LCSW, is both a brain injury survivor and a dedicated trauma therapist. Having recovered from eight concussions during her youth, she faced another significant setback at age 60 when a fainting episode led to a head injury that took six years to heal. Through her own journey, Ida discovered how regulating sensory systems could help regulate the nervous system, unlocking a deeper phase of her healing. Today, as a trauma therapist, yoga teacher, and sculptor, she is dedicated to sharing this knowledge with others, helping them navigate their own recovery paths through sensory and nervous system regulation.

Sara Penrod, MS, CCC-SLP, BCS-S, is a passionate medical speech-language pathologist with nearly 20 years of experience working with adults across the continuum of care. Sara specializes in swallowing disorders, tracheostomy and ventilator-dependent populations, head and neck cancer, and the effects of TBI and neurological conditions, including Disorders of Consciousness. Sara is board-certified in swallowing and swallowing disorders.

Lindsay Pieper, PT, DPT, has been working as a physical therapist in the field of Brain Injury for 13 years. She started her PT career as a staff therapist within a neuro-specialized SNF in Maine. She then transitioned into the role of Director of Rehab within the SNF setting. When Rehab Without Walls opened in Maine in 2020, she transitioned into the role of PRN PT and eventually became a full-time PT and Clinical Coordinator. In 2022, she was promoted to Director of Clinical Management, and in 2025, she was promoted to the Executive Director for the Southern Maine program. She continues to have a passion for neurorehab, supporting and facilitating our patients' return to their highest level of function within their own home and community environments.

Miranda Prescott, BSPY, MSOTR/L, is the Executive Director of Rehab Without Walls Home & Community in Bangor, Maine, where she provides strategic leadership focused on quality outcomes, team development, and patient-centered, community-based care. She joined Rehab Without Walls in 2024 as Program Manager and was promoted to Executive Director following recognition as the 2025 RWW Legacy Leader of the Year. With degrees in Psychology and Occupational Therapy from Husson University, Miranda brings both clinical expertise and operational insight to expanding access to brain injury rehabilitation across rural Maine.

Jessica Riccardi, PhD, CCC-SLP, Assistant Professor, Graduate Coordinator, Communication Sciences & Disorders, University of Maine

Richard R. Riker, MD, FCCM, is a physician-scientist specializing in pulmonary, critical care, and neurocritical care medicine. He serves as Professor of Medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine and is the former Director of Medical Critical Care at Maine Medical Center. With over four decades of clinical and academic experience, Dr. Riker has made significant contributions to the care of critically ill patients, particularly in the areas of ICU sedation, analgesia, and post-cardiac arrest care. He is a co-author of multiple guidelines for the Society of Critical Care Medicine and the Neurocritical Care Society, and he has published more than 150 peer-reviewed articles.

SPEAKERS

Tiffany Robinson, MA, LCPC, CCATP, is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor in private practice with nearly 20 years of experience in the mental health field. She specializes in supporting individuals impacted by brain injuries, chronic medical conditions, anxiety, depression, and chronic PTSD. She is especially passionate about helping people navigate major life changes and rediscover meaning, identity, and hope after experiences like trauma, illness, or neurological injury.

Elizabeth Rosen, MD, is an adult vascular and pediatric neurologist at Tufts Medical Center, Boston, MA, with specialized training across the neurologic lifespan. She earned her medical degree from St. George's University School of Medicine, completed Child Neurology residency at the University at Buffalo, and pursued fellowship training in Vascular Neurology at Tufts Medical Center and Boston Children's Hospital. Her clinical and research interests focus on improving rapid access care for patients with transient ischemic attacks and advancing transitions from pediatric to adult neurology for individuals with complex neurologic conditions, particularly cerebrovascular disease.

Helen Roy is responsible for ensuring Maine consumers and enrollment professionals have access to accurate information about MaineCare, ACA Marketplace plans, and safety-net programs. Her outreach includes presentations and trainings for specialized audiences, preparation of flyers and fact sheets, and public appearances. Helen has also worked extensively on private insurance appeals of denied medical claims. A former CAHC Board member and HelpLine Advocate, Helen has been a social justice advocate her entire adult life. She has worked on issues such as adequate funding for Head Start, access to public transportation, adequate staffing for Maine's nursing homes, and alleviating elder isolation.

Camden Tillinghast, MSOT, OTR/L, earned her Master of Science in Occupational Therapy from the University of New Hampshire and has clinical experience in acute care and inpatient rehabilitation settings. She currently practices at the Maine Strong Balance Center in Saco, Maine, where she works with individuals who have experienced stroke, traumatic brain injury, concussion, and other neurological conditions. Her clinical interests include neuromuscular re-education and cognitive rehabilitation, with a focus on supporting participation in meaningful daily activities and maximizing independence throughout the recovery process.

Chelsea Zarcone, LICSW, CBIS, brings 12+ years of experience in mental health and neuro-affirming care. She has provided care to individuals and their families across the lifespan, in various settings, including inpatient psychiatric care, inpatient neurorehabilitation, and community-based programs for both mental health and brain injury recovery. She has experience providing psychotherapy to those with acquired brain injuries, intellectual/developmental disabilities, and/or autism spectrum disorders, within the community mental health system, and within program development for behavioral health services in outpatient, allied health clinic spaces. Chelsea has extensive experience in providing trauma-informed care, including EMDR and play-based therapies.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

BIAA-Maine Chapter would like to thank our volunteer planning committee for their hard work and dedication:

- **Sue Bartlett, LCSW, CCM, CBIS**, Per Diem Case Manager, New England Rehabilitation Hospital
- **Jim Beaudry**, Brain Injury Survivor
- **Beth Burke, OTR/L, CBIS, MHA**, Team Leader, Maine Medical Center
- **Cathleen Dunlap, LCSW**, Clinical Director, Paramount Behavioral Services, Inc.
- **Benjamin Heaberlin**, Brain Injury Survivor
- **Janet Keith, CCM, OT/L**, Director of Business Development/Sales Northeast, Rehab Without Walls Neurorehabilitation
- **Teena Oullette, M.A.**, Clinical Evaluator, NeuroRestorative
- **Rachel Phillips, OT**, Maine Health
- **Jessica Riccardi, Ph.D., CCC-SLP**, Assistant Professor, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, University of Maine
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